



"Nurungi"

Remembered

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY

email: chs@concordheritage.asn.au

www.concordheritage.asn.au

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MEETINGS

General Meetings

2nd Wednesday of month
at 7:30 pm in the
Concord Citizens' Centre
9 Wellbank Street, Concord
Phone: 8765-9155

Executive Meetings

4th Wednesday of
August, October, January,
March, May and July
at 7:30 pm in the
Concord Citizens' Centre

Walker Estates Committee

4th Wednesday of
September, November,
February, April and June
at 7:30 pm in the
Concord Citizens' Centre

Derek Williams, 9746-9649

Other Committees

As arranged
Watch the newsletter

Museum

Lorraine Holmes, 9743-2682

Archives/Local History

Heritage

Bob Jones, 8765-9347

Oral/Family History

Lola Sharp, 8753-0659

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**CONCORD
HERITAGE MUSEUM**

5 Wellbank Street

Open 2:00 - 4:00 pm
on 1st and 3rd

Wednesdays & Saturdays

Australia Day

Traditionally, the explorer Matthew Flinders is credited with having invented the word 'Australia'. This belief is based on comments made by Flinders in the introduction to his book *A Voyage to Terra Australis* (1814), concerning his use of the name 'Terra Australis' instead of New Holland.

January 26 is officially Australia Day. Formerly Anniversary Day, and then Foundation Day, this annual holiday and observance commemorates the landing of Captain Arthur Phillip and the convicts of the first fleet at Sydney Cove (N.S.W.) on 26 January 1788.

The first celebration of Anniversary Day, was on Sydney on 26 January 1818, the thirtieth anniversary of the foundation of New South Wales as a British Colony and by Governor Macquarie's order there was a salute of thirty guns followed by official celebrations.

Taken from. Australian Folklore by W. Fearn - Wannan Page 19.

We must disagree with the date of 1818 being claimed as the first Australia Day Celebration, because . . .

On January 23, 1817 Isaac Nichols of Concord wrote to Governor Macquarie asking permission to officially celebrate Anniversary Day . . .

Friday morning 23rd Jan'y 1817

Sir,

I beg leave to inform Your Excellency that a number of the respectable inhabitants of Sydney have applied for to dine together at my house on Monday next to commemorate the anniversary of the establishment of this colony.

I have considered it my duty to inform Your Excellency of the above application. And should be therefore glad to know if the above meeting should meet Your Excellency's approbation before I can sanction it or give a final answer to their request.

I have the honour to be with respect Your Excellency a very humble servant,

Isaac Nichols

A note attached reads . . .

Appn for permission to commemorate the anniversary of the establishment of the colony - from Mr. I Nicholls. Received at

24 Jan'y 1817.

J.W.

To His Excellency Governor Macquarie, etc. etc. etc.

J.N.W (?)

On the back of this was the written note . . .
"Most readily acquiesces in the request herein made by Mr. Nichols; highly approving of his and his friends celebrating tomorrow the 29th Anniversary of the establishment of this colony.

Sunday 26 Jan'y 1817 L.M.

The above letter and reply are held at the Mitchell Library.

The following item was printed in the "Sydney Gazette" . . .

On Monday the 27th ult a dinner party met at the house of Mr. Isaac Nichols, for the purpose of celebrating the anniversary of the institution of this colony under Governor Philip, which took place on the 26th of January 1788, but this year happening upon a Sunday the commemoration dinner was reserved for the day following.

The party assembled were select, and about 40 in number. At 5 in the afternoon dinner was on the table, and a more agreeable entertainment could not have been anticipated.

After dinner a number of loyal toasts were drunk, and a number of festive songs given; and about 10 the company parted, well gratified with the pleasures that the meeting had afforded.

In this account it would be unjust to pass over a pleasant novelty, for which the company were indebted to the muse of Mr. Jenkins (who was one of the stewards, and took the chair by an unanimous wish), in complimenting the party with a few appropriate verses on the occasion; which were



Bulletin Board

8th February - Trish Skehan will tell us about the Elgin Marbles, supported by overheads.

8th March - Andrew Monaghan from The Costume House in Gladesville, "Early Australian Fashions in Museum Collections"

sung by a gentleman to the tune of Rule Britannia, with considerable effect, and produced a well deserved encomium as well to the singer as the composer.

Hearing it highly spoken of, we have applied for and been complimented with a copy of the verses, which appear at the head of the next column."

*When first Australia rose to fame,
And seamen brave explor'd her shore:
Neptune with joy, with joy beheld their aim,
And thus express'd the wish he bore:
Rise, Australia!
With peace and plenty crown'd.
Thy name shall one day be renown'd*

*Bright Ceres shall adorn thy land,
And gild thy fields with waving grain,
While roving herds shall o'er thy meads
expand
And range the riches of the plain.
Rise, Australia! etc., etc.*

*Then commerce, too, shall on thee smile,
Advent'rous barks thy ports shall crowd;
While pleas'd, well pleas'd, the parent isle,
Shall of her distant sons be proud.
Rise Australia! etc., etc.*

*While Europe's pow'rs in conflict dire
Exhaust the flower of the brave,
Here peace shall flourish, shall flourish -
none conspire,
With human blood thy soil to lave.
Rise Australia! etc. etc.*

Note: It is possible that this celebration was held at his property in Concord (now the Yaralla estate), in the absence of any proof to the contrary.

The Australian Flag

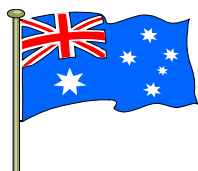
The Australian Flag was "born" in 1901 when a schoolboy, Ivor Evans of Melbourne, won a design for Australia's national flag.

The judges said his design had three outstanding qualities; it displayed the Southern Cross, the brightest constellation in the Southern Hemisphere and by the presence of the UNION JACK it illustrated Australia's loyalty to the Empire.

Below the UNION JACK is the Star of Federation, with its seven points - one for each of the six States and the Australian Territories.

One point of this Federal Star points exactly to the Cross of St. George, a tribute to England. The Australia Flag has a blue background.

Taken from the New International Illustrated Encyclopaedia Volume 3, p171 b.



A Look Around a Georgian and Victorian Kitchen

As the years go by, it is becoming increasingly difficult to recognise, for what they really were, some of the utensils which our Victorian and Georgian forebears used in their kitchens and at the table. It is true, of course, that some kitchen tools have not changed in 200 years – a Georgian steak-beater was the same crenulated, hammer-like instrument that one buys from a shop today, except that it was made of wood instead of metal – but others present something of a puzzle to the modern collector, often because the purpose for which they were originally developed no longer exists, or because completely new methods of preparing and serving food have been introduced.

It is extraordinary how rapidly some of these faithful servants of the palate can become outmoded. For example, how many people born after 1930 would recognise the little wooden cap with which one used to open a bottle of fizzy lemonade, sealed with a glass marble; or the stalwart circular apparatus for cleaning knives, of slightly earlier vintage.

A mechanical device which was an indispensable part of every Victorian kitchen was the bottle-jack. This attractive brass contrivance, the size and shape of a small bottle, was hung, neck upwards, from a bracket attached to the wall above the roasting fire. From its base projected a hook to which the joint of meat was attached, and a clockwork motor inside the body of the bottle spun the meat slowly backwards and forwards in front of the flames until it was evenly cooked.

Of similar size, but in use in Georgian as well as Victorian kitchens was the potato masher, a club-shaped instrument of boxwood or other durable timber with a smooth and slightly rounded base. The handles of mashers varied considerably in length according to the size of the household and the consequent amount of potatoes to be dealt with.

Two useful fireside animals of the same period were the cat and the salamander. The former was an arrangement of three rods some eighteen inches long, joined in the centre so that each rod was at right angles to the other two, and all of them terminating in a wooden ball. It took its name from the undeniable truth that however it was dropped it always landed on its feet. Its purpose was to support and keep warm a dish in front of the fire. The salamander was a metal spoon, attached to a long handle, which was thrust into the flames until it was red hot, and then held close to a slice of bread to toast it.

The prosaic business of ridding the kitchen of flies was also accomplished with decorum in the Victorian kitchen. Instead of an unsightly length of sticky paper being hung from the ceiling, a decanter-shaped glass fly trap, its bottom raised on short legs so that the flies could reach the trough of diluted jam inside, accomplished the same purpose with greater efficiency.

The need for sugar-loaf cutters vanished early in the twentieth century with the introduction of granulated sugar. For over 200 years before then, sugar had arrived in the kitchen in the form of a hard-packed conical loaf, from which pieces were broken as required. The loaf-cutter used in Victorian homes was in the form of a pair of steel pliers with the difference that instead of gripping surfaces the ends were worked into curved, scimitar-like blades; a spike was fixed to one of the handles to knock the lumps away.

There are certain instruments in use in kitchens today which, in ten or twenty years time will be laughed at, and in fifty years time will be unrecognised. What proportion of modern housewives still use a hand coffee grinder, or a porous earthenware butter cooler, or even a hand tin-opener? All these are bygones of the future.

(“From a Collector”)

Questionnaire



Have you filled in and returned the questionnaire sent out with the last two Nurungis? We are concerned, among other things, with the low numbers at meetings and would like to know why.

If we're not giving you what you joined up for, let us know where we are going wrong. We want to fix it.

Please help us to make the society more relevant to your needs.

Information is needed before our next Executive meeting on 22nd February.



Elgin Marbles – The Curse of Minerva.

26th September 1687. Venetian gunners lobbed mortar shells on the Parthenon, now being used as an ammunition dump by the Turks. It was said that the resulting explosion destroyed much of the main facade, but it would still be used as a fortress. Homes and hovels appeared in the gaps between some of the world's most noble buildings. Many ancient marble statues were burnt to produce lime for repairing the walls. *This fact has done more to destroy the classic cities of the ancient world than any amount of activity by barbarians.* (Quote from *Loot, the Heritage of Plunder*, by Russell Chamberlain.)

In 1795 Lord Elgin, career diplomat, (born 1766) proposed marriage, aged 29, to a wealthy young woman. He engaged architect Thomas Harrison, to build a magnificent mansion to be called Broom Hall, as a wedding present for his young bride. Harrison had studied in Rome but persuaded Lord Elgin that the 'classical' Greek style was the only fitting design for such a residence. Lord Elgin agreed.

In 1799 Lord Elgin obtained the post of Ambassador to Constantinople (Istanbul), situated in the court of the Sublime Porte Sultanate. Harrison, overjoyed at this appointment, saw the opportunity to 'bring Greece to Scotland'. He asked Lord Elgin for detailed drawings of ancient Greek architecture and sculpture, planning to reproduce them in the mansion. Fashionable British society was turning from the Roman influence to Greek culture, the latest trend. Harrison assured Lord Elgin that he would be the envy of this fashionable society once Broom Hall was complete.

Lord Elgin left England in the summer of 1799 with his young bride and a personal secretary named William Hamilton. In Naples, they engaged the services of a Neapolitan painter, Giovanni Lusieri. Lord and Lady Elgin continued on to Constantinople, while Harrison stayed to assemble a team of workers for the mammoth task ahead. Arriving in Athens, Harrison and Lusieri found the Acropolis a squalid mess. They described a depressing sight of structures cannibalised from the ruins, or whitewashed from the remains.

If you want to hear the rest of the story come along to our meeting on Wednesday, 8th February and Trish Skehan will tell us all.

Flashback on Concord – 60 year Review

A recollection of old Concord by the late Mr. H. Stanton (Mayor of Concord 1951-52) as published in the "Concord Recorder" on 16th March, 1961.

It was a pleasure to read the very able letter penned by your correspondent in last week's "Recorder".

Concord is certainly a progressive Municipality and we, the residents who lived here at the turn of the century, have watched with pride the amazing growth and prosperity of our home town.

When the writer went to World War I, Central Concord, as such, did not exist. It was known as Hillcrest.

The shopping "centre" was Mrs. Wray's General Store or shop at the corner of Ludgate and Wellbank Streets and the dwellings around could be numbered on the fingers of both hands: Josselyn's two-storeyed weatherboard (they say timber now) house in Majors bay Road, the semi-detached stone houses over the hill, Flavelle's mansion and some cottages in Spring Street.

All the rest, cow paddocks – Bolton's Dairy and Hygienic Dairies Ltd. – and scrub.

In the latter was a cleared two-up ring from which concealed pathways radiated, and were guarded by "cockatoos".

Round about 1904-5 I'd say, the clearing of Walker's Bush commenced to make way for the now famous Concord Golf Course. What a forest Walker's Bush was! Tall timbers of immense girth and dense undergrowth! A saw mill was erected on the site to deal with the fallen trees.

The paddock mentioned by Mr. Lofts, where the Housing Commission cottages are, was once used by Mr. Delfosse Badgery, an amateur aviator, to make a forced landing in his biplane, a machine of William Hart vintage.

Ian Parade was once a tidal eroded foot track over the swamp with a wooden bridge over Saltwater Creek, which is now the stormwater channel bisecting the Municipal Golf Links.

The Sydney Ferry steamers used to call at Burwood Wharf, which is now Bayview Park, and parishioners and their families used to walk from near Burwood Station to the wharf to board

the ferry on the occasion of St. Luke's Sunday School Picnics.

Prior to the advent of the steam trams, a horse-drawn bus – three hoses – used to play from Ireland's Hotel, Liverpool Road and Burwood Roads to Mortlake Gasworks. The owner, I think, was Clyde Favelle's grandfather.

The steam trams came about 1905, first to Mortlake from Ashfield and later an extension at the famous Correy's Gardens Pavilion, where the music was dispensed by Boxall's String Band.

On King's Birthday, 9th November, 1909, one of the steam trams had a boiler explosion at Stanley Street loop, then the one penny section from Burwood Station.

It was stationary alongside the engine coming from Burwood, which had three crowded cars of holiday makers behind it. Two men were killed outright and one died in hospital. Their bodies were hurled over 50 yards away. The huge headlight of one motor was hurled over the top of Concord School and landed on the lunch shed near Salisbury Street, 160 yards away.

Concord Council efficiently ran the Municipality, with a Town Clerk, Jim Bolster, Jim Casey on his dark chestnut gelding Billy was overseer, health inspector and engineer, with a staff of, at the most, four men. There were no kerbs and gutters and these men with mattocks and shovels kept the gutters free of water buffalo – paspalum was then unknown.

Access to Ryde was by means of a hand punt, where a man and his son used to turn a six feet diameter grooved wheel to wind the punt across the river.

The only industries in Concord then were the Gas Works and a couple of tanneries.

Concord Park was enclosed by a five rail post and rail fence of split timber. Ashton's Baths, 33 yards long, and Bracey's Model Baths, 25 yards, were the Mecca of swimmers and the cradle of many famous Concord swimmers.

There are quite a few natives of Concord who could tell of seventy years ago, ten years more than I can, and it would be interesting to read what they have to say.

H. Stanton, Concord – 16th March, 1961

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Seniors Writing Competition

... sponsored by City of Canada Bay Council and being held in conjunction with Seniors Week 2006/

Topic: "My Genes Made Me Do It"

Details: 1000 words maximum, double-spaced, typed preferred. Title page: title, name, address and phone number.

Applicants must be 60 years of age or over.

Closing date: 24th March, 2006.

Send entries to: Community Development Officer (Aged), City of Canada Bay Council, Locked Bag 1470, Drummoyne, 1470.

If you'd like to enter but you're not too sure you can do it, why not take advantage of the Free Writing Workshops being offered.

Concord - 27th February, 2006. 10:00 am to 12 noon, Concord Senior Citizens Centre. Phone Hazel on 9743-4171

Drummoyne - 20th February, 2006. 10:00 am to 12 noon, Drummoyne Oval Pavilion, Cometrowe Street. Phone Yvonne on 9819-7545.

Perhaps you might get bitten by the writing bug and can contribute some items for Nurungi (see page 3).

YOU'RE INVITED

The Concord Community Hostel Limited, Ladies' Auxiliary, invites you to their

47th Annual Luncheon

Date: Wednesday, 8th March at 12:30 pm sharp.

Venue: The Concord Function Centre, 138-144 Majors Bay Road.

Cost: \$25.00 per person (admission by ticket only)

Special Guest Speaker: Lorrae Desmond, TV personality

RSVP: 24th February, 2006 to Mrs. Lorna Wright, 2 Myall Street, Concord West, 2138. Ph. 9743-4869

For your Diary

Wed. 25th Jan - Walker Estates
Wed. 8th Feb - General Meeting
Wed. 22nd Feb - Executive
Wed. 8th Mar - General Meeting
Wed. 22nd Mar - Walker Estates

Yaralla Open Day

Sunday, 9th April, 2006

Please put the date
in your diary now.

Full details later

"Australian Heritage"

If you have an interest in Australia and its history this new magazine may be of interest to you. It is full colour and focuses on bringing to light some of the extraordinary events and remarkable people in this country's history.

Written by leading historians and authors, the magazine will profile artists, explorers and pioneers - the wonderful achievements of the men and women who put their stamp on this nation.

Subscription is \$28.00 per year (4 issues). Forms and details from the secretary. A copy of the first issue is also available to read.

www.heritageaustralia.com.au

Recipe for washing clothes

- circa 1900.

1. Build fire in backyard to heat copper
2. Set tubs so smoke won't blow in eyes
3. Put one whole cake of lye soap in boiling water.
4. Sort things. Make one pile of coloured, one pile whites, one pile breeches.
5. Stir flour in cold water to smooth, thin down with boiling water. Starch.
6. Rub dirty spots on scrubbing board, then boil, rub coloureds but don't boil, just rinse and starch.
7. Take white things out of copper with broom handle, then rinse, blue and starch.
8. Spread tea towels on grass, others on fence.
9. Put rinse water on flower beds.
10. Scrub porch with soapy water.
11. Turn over tubs to drain.
12. Put on a clean dress, smooth hair with side combs, make a cup of tea, sit and rest.

Count your blessings . . .

From the Secretary's Desk

Group Visits to Yaralla:

Saturday 18/2/06 - WWOKR - 3:30 pm. One guide needed. Devonshire tea still to be confirmed.

Wednesday, 15/3/06 - 10:30 am - Drummoyne Community Centre. One guide needed. Devonshire teas to be served.

Monday, 20/3/06 - 10:00 am - McMasters Beach Garden Club. Two guides needed. Devonshire teas to be served.

Can you help with any of these days?

Clean Up Australia Day - Sunday, 5th March, 2006. Details at the next general meeting or in the next Nurungi.

To all our willing helpers from last year - there are still some cuttings to be copied and filed if you can spare a little time.

Our Photographic Collection: Now that we have identified many of our collection they need to be scanned into the computer. This is not a hard job and requires no computer skills. It's just a matter of pushing a button when the computer tells you to. Can you spare some time to help with this important work?

Our Christmas Barbecue was once again a most enjoyable evening spent in good company, with good food and a most pleasant setting. If you didn't come along - make sure you don't miss the next one.

Museum Roster: We are about to prepare the new roster. If you would like to volunteer to assist with this let us know. The museum is only open on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays and Wednesdays each month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. so you would only be on the roster every couple of months.

Urgent Appeal: We desperately need more volunteers for the **Wednesdays**. It only takes two hours - approximately every 6 weeks at the moment, but longer when we get more volunteers. It's not hard work and needs no specific knowledge.

If you think you'd like to try we can arrange for you to go on roster with one of our regulars so you can see what it's like.

We can even pick you up if necessary.

Give Lois or Lorraine Holmes a call. Phone numbers on page 1.